

To Evaluate and Delve into Science Popularization of Primary School Students--Taking No.1

Primary School of Jiugong Town in Beijing as an Example

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***Abstract:** Science education is of strategic importance to a nation as a whole , education should be conducted at a very early age, due to a fact that the primary school students are at an important period in which their mental and physical development and their ability to absorb knowledge can be given effective play to. For this end, to conduct science education at the primary school is bound to play a vital role in boosting the national educational quality in the future. Based on some survey made in No.1PrimarySchool of Jiugong town in Beijing as an example, and on some analysis about current situation, the thesis is to make a tentative research in this regard.*

Keywords: No.1 Primary School of Jiugong town, Science education, Primary school students

1. Introduction of the spots surveyed

No.1 Primary School of Jiugong town is located in Daxing district, Beijing city. It covers an area of 32168 square meters, with a possession of teaching buildings numbering more than 14000 square meters. The school is well-equipped and embraces good surroundings. What is more, a number of rooms, such as computer, science education, music, dancing, and library, etc, have been established.

The school has a team of high-quality and excellent teachers, and the number of students currently totals more than 1500, 70% of them are coming from the families of migrant workers who make their living in Beijing.

2. Ways for primary school students to acquire information concerning science education

Through our practical survey(especially face-to face interview) ,it shows that they come to obtain information regarding science education in the such following context.

2.1. In -class education

Traditionally, in-class education is regarded as the primary way for the middle or primary school students to obtain information regarding science education .The relevant departments or ministries, Ministry of Education is one of them, publish some textbooks on science education annually in order that the information included in the textbooks can be updated, catching up with the current steps of the economic and social development.

Currently, the textbooks used by the students in No.1 Primary School are published by Capital Normal University Publishing House. Interviews illustrate that Students of grade1 and 2 do not study the science education at present, in other words, science education is only picked up by students of grade 3,4,5 and 6 respectively.

Interviewee 1, LY, female, 9 years old. She has a thought that the science information given in class by teachers is of great use, “ I have learnt a lot from that, for example, I listened to a class about public health of everyday life, that class makes me understand clearly that we should pay attention to hygiene and public health, which is of huge significance to the health of body”.

Therefore, this form of science education does not only assist them in obtaining information in this respect, but also helps them form an idea that science education is closely linked with everyday practical life.

2.2. Extracurricular readings and related social and practical activities

With the fast development of society, the ways for people to know and explore the world are becoming more and more diverse, apart from getting science information in class, students get to acquire information about science education

through gaining access to library, in which a number of books range from astronomy ,geography , tips about everyday life to paying a visit to museums and planetarium on eventful science popularization days.

Interviewee 2, ZLS, female ,11 years old, grade 5. She recalled that the school organized a scientific tour to Beijing planetarium, “that trip helps me a lot, because I get a deeper knowledge of planetarium, that practical experience as well helps me broaden my scope in this regard .”

2.3 Media like TV or Web

Thanks to the great development of TV, Websites, to name but a few. during the recent years, school students get to have access to webs under the supervision and guidance of their parents and teachers.

Interviewee 3, LY, male ,10 years old, grade 4. he is fond of watching such TV programs as Animal world and science exploration, “that benefits me hugely, which makes me have an in-depth concept of animals, as a result, I come to love and pet them more and more, because they all construct very important parts on the earth.”

3. Problems need to be resolved and counter-measures need to be taken

According to some data , recent years have witnessed the development in the science education in primary schools with some concerted efforts, but there still do exist some aspects that need to be improved further.

3.1 The scientific knowledge acquired by teachers can not catch up with the pace of the social development

Based on our survey, the findings show that the teacher who is now teaching science education did not take the science education as her or his first major when he or she attended university. But the reality is that to conduct the science education in a comprehensive and systematical way is quite important. Bian yulin, a famous science communicator remarks that “although the students nowadays are able to get information concerning science through many channels, the science education conducted in class on a regular basis plays an essential role in popularizing scientific knowledge and scientific spirit in a more systematical, and accurate manner. And this is the way that other ways can not be compared to and can not take place of .

In a word ,to have this problem solved, the school should on one hand select those whose majors are having something to do with science education at university, on the other hand, the school should give necessary trainings about science education regularly so that the teachers are able to keep abreast of the scientific technology.

3.2 The funds obtained can not meet the requirements of organizing a large number of outside-class activities

The survey tells that the number of the large-scale science education activities organized by school is too scarce . such activity is only organized once per year for one grade. For this end ,we interviewed some person in charge in that school , he said, “there is not so much money left for it , the fund or the money injecting into it is only coming from our school. At present , there are no other channels to collect money for it.” However, the joint collecting funds invested into the science popularization is vital to the science education. “as far as the well-developed country with modernity is concerned, there must be such 3 channels as government investment, enterprise investment and foundation investment which are used to collect money for the scientific popularization, but we only have the government investment currently, the mechanism for putting investment into it has not been formed and conducted on a regular basis.

Therefore, to solve it in a good manner, more thoughts should be put more on making concerted efforts to make the investment into the scientific popularization more diverse so that the students can gain more access to experiencing the science education.

3.3 Regulation on websites is not tightened and the information posted on websites is not updated regularly

When you open the relevant website, you will instantly find that the information on it is disorderly and is not updated regularly and timely.

Interviewee 4, LZH, female, 36 years old. We often help our kids open some web, with a hope to get some useful information ,but we usually feel that the information posted on the web is updated so slowly and that the professional terms are very difficult to understand.

In terms of the articles for the scientific education, the contents should be of fun, easy to grasp. Ju Yunfeng, a famous science communicator argues that “ the works of science should be made more interesting and accessible, so that people can gain easy access to it, and consequently, the rate of scientific popularization can be enhanced.

To have the problems tackled effectively, the media should shoulder their due responsibility to play a positive and exemplary role in spreading scientific knowledge. Shi Changxu, a famous Chinese science communicator says that “media has an important role to play in guiding the kids’ ideology, the leading task for the science education is to cultivate their interest and curiosity in science.

4. Conclusion

Science Education is a long-term and systematic endeavor which requires the concerted and coordinated efforts of the relevant departments and people from all walks of life. No.1 Primary School of Jiugong town is located in Beijing, where the economic and social development is ranking in the forefront in China. the case of that school can not be applied to a nationwide scale unconditionally, in that every region differs tremendously in terms of science popularization especially with regard to the investments made into the science education.

Good times have come for China to develop its economy and society, etc. To accelerate the speed of education and to enhance the quality of the students have become an issue of great concern and significance. It is a fact that to conduct the science education at the early period is of great significance to national development. Some expert holds a belief that “to conduct science education at the early period has 2 functions, the first is that it is bound to enhance the education quality, the second is that it has every linkage with the national development, therefore ,to engage in this does not only benefit the students themselves but also benefits the nation as a whole.

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